



September 2019

THE NEW HORT THYMES

Serving Cleveland County, Oklahoma with the most up to date gardening, lawn, landscaping, and horticulture information.



Cleveland County Extension Office

Address

601 E Robinson St
Norman, OK 73071

Phone

405-321-4774

Email

courtney.dekalb@okstate.edu

Website

www.oces.okstate.edu/cleveland

Social Media

Facebook:

/clevelandcountyhort

Instagram:

@clevelandcountyhorticulture



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Bloomer Sooner

Yes, this is an OSU Extension newsletter

But it's for Cleveland County! Where Norman is the county seat and OU football is tightly woven into the culture. So much so that the landscaping around town reflects that. There are red and white pentas in the median, dusty miller and red begonias in mailbox planters, and in the upcoming months, dark crimson mums will proudly be displayed on front porches.

The start of football season can mean something else for gardeners. Summer heat starts to back off and all of the plants are relieved. There's about a six week period where everything perks up and shows off. Now is a good time to trim and refresh overgrown containers before they are replaced with pansies. Consider checking out garden centers for some fresh new perennials. It's a great time of year to enjoy the last bit of summer color, before fall shows up in full force.

Gearing Up for Garlic

There are many schools of thought on when garlic should be planted. Some say the shortest day of the year, some say Thanksgiving, some say Valentine's Day. According to our Fall Gardening fact sheet ([HLA-6009](#)), Oklahoma garlic can be planted from September 1st to October 15th. The goal is to get it established before we go through the cold of winter. The bulbs need to have a developed root system so that they can support rapid growth in the spring.

Seed suppliers can run out of popular varieties, so it's important to get those garlic orders in now. Some tested and recommended varieties for Oklahoma are German Red, Spanish Roja, Inchelium Red, and Silverskin.

There are three different kinds of garlic – hardneck, softneck, and elephant garlic. Hardneck varieties have more tolerance toward cold winters and a slightly more pungent flavor. They also produce tiny bulblets on the ends of flowering stalks, called scapes. Softneck varieties tend to grow larger bulbs, as they're not using energy for the scapes. Their tops are more flexible, which make them great for braiding. Elephant garlic varieties are actually a leek that produce large cloves. These are more mild than the true garlics.

Garlic needs to be planted in full sun and well-drained soil. Plant bulbs three inches by 12 inches apart, or in a three inch grid for square foot gardening. Garlic is ready for harvest when the necks begin to brown and fall over. In Oklahoma, this is usually in early June. Garlic can also be planted in early spring, but the harvested bulbs will be smaller.



Recommended Garlic Varieties for Oklahoma:



German Red



Spanish Roja

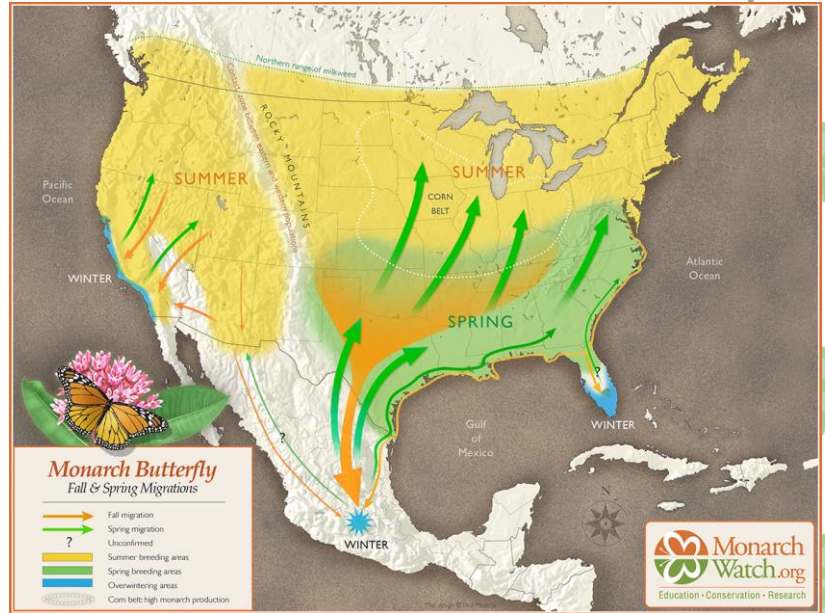


Inchelium Red

Late Bloomers for Migrating Monarchs

Oklahoma is perfectly positioned to be a rest stop for migrating monarch butterflies. In the fall, we can see large numbers of these colorful creatures as they travel to central Mexico for overwintering.

Monarch populations have declined 90% since 1996. The decline is likely caused by habitat loss. All gardeners can do their part by creating landscapes filled with milkweed and diverse nectar plants. This time of year, late blooming plants are especially important as they provide food for monarchs as they migrate south. Consider some of the following plants to add late blooming flowers to the garden.



Aromatic aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*) is a drought tolerant, full sun plant with blue-ish purple flowers.



Canada goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*) grows tall with arching clusters of small yellow flowers.



Golden crownbeard (*Verbesina encelioides*) is a reseeding annual that prefers full sun and low water usage.



Tall blazing star (*Liatriis aspera*) has tall, purple spikes of flowers and is drought tolerant.

Photos from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Database

For more information on helping the monarch butterflies, check out www.okiesformonarchs.org



September Plant of the Month: American Beautyberry

Add some purple to the fall garden with this native shrub

It isn't fall without the striking warm colors of the changing leaves. Looking for a way to add some cool colors to the garden? Consider planting the American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*).

American beautyberry grows to 3-5 ft. tall and 3-5 ft. wide. The branches have a arching habit creating a loosely open structure. The leaves are ovate shaped with an opposite arrangement. Purple berries, or drupes, develop in the leaf axils at the beginning of fall. White berry varieties are also available. The berries provide food for many bird species.

Plant this native shrub in a full sun to part shade location. American beautyberry prefers a soil that is well-drained and rich in organic matter. It is very low-maintenance once established.



Drupe /druop/: a fleshy fruit with thin skin and a central stone containing the seed

Garden Tips for September

- Choose spring flowering bulbs as soon as available
- Plant cool-season annuals like pansies, ornamental cabbage or kale, snapdragons, and dusty miller when temperatures begin to cool
- Trees and shrubs can be planted in September, as it's easier for plants to become established in our winters rather than our summers
- Watch for fall specials at garden centers and nurseries; fall is a great time to plant many perennials
- Continue to fertilize and deadhead containers; most will last until the first frost
- Take cuttings to overwinter indoors
- Watch for and control any late infestation of tree webworms
- Begin to reduce the amount of light on outside tropical houseplants by placing them under shade trees before bringing them indoors
- September is a great time to plant cool-season vegetables
- Last nitrogen fertilizer application on warm-season grasses should be applied no later than September 15th
- Winter broadleaf weeds, like dandelion, will begin to emerge in late September, which is also the best time to control them with a 2,4-D type herbicide
- White grub damage can become visible this month; apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem
- Preserve the color of your garden by creating dried arrangements from your favorite flowers
- Make sure to take pictures of your gardens, so you can document the year's successes and frustrations

Eat Seasonally

In-season produce is fresher, cheaper, more nutritious, and better for the environment. These are some of the seasonal crops for September:



Upcoming Events

September 5th – September 8th – Cleveland County Free Fair

Cleveland County OSU Extension Office, Classroom “C”, 601 E. Robinson St., Norman, OK 73071

It's that time of year again! The Cleveland County Free Fair will begin on September 5th and end on September 8th. Fair entry drop-off will be on September 4th from 3:00pm to 8:00pm. Come check out all of the amazing exhibits, enjoy sweet treats, ride amusement rides, and listen to some live music. For more information and a full schedule of events, visit www.clevelandcountyfair.org.

This event is free and no reservations are required.

September 29th, 10:00am to 4:00pm – Monarchs In The Park

City of Norman – Andrews Park, 201 W Daws St, Norman, OK 73069

Monarchs in the Park Festival will celebrate the fall migration of the monarch butterfly through central Oklahoma. Join us for a fun and educational day celebrating this amazing migratory butterfly and all the pollinators that call Oklahoma home!

This event is free and no reservations are required. For more information, check www.monarchsinthepark.org.

October 3rd, 6:30pm to 7:30pm – Preserve Your Herbs

Pioneer Library System – Southwest OKC Library, 2201 SW 134th, Oklahoma City, OK 73170

Join us at the Southwest OKC Library as we learn how to dry fresh herbs to stock the cabinet with through the winter. Other herb preservation techniques will be discussed. The program is intended for adults.

This event is free, but registration is required. To register for the class, visit <http://pioneer.libnet.info/event/3094471>.

October 5th, 10:00am to 11:00am – Seed Gathering Workshop

CCMGA Demo and Teaching Garden, Southwest Corner of the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 615 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071

The Cleveland County Master Gardeners will be demonstrating seed gathering and seed saving techniques from different plants throughout the demonstration garden. Learn hands-on how to save your seeds so you can continue the harvest in 2020.

This event is free and no reservations are required.

About the editor...

Courtney DeKalb-Myers has been the Cleveland County horticulture educator since August 2018. Her position handles homeowner inquiries, master gardener advisement, and other horticulture education programming throughout the state. She is originally from Norman, Oklahoma and developed a passion for gardening at a young age. She went onto study horticulture at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater with an emphasis in entrepreneurship. After graduating from OSU, she moved to Raleigh, North Carolina to attend NC State for graduate school. Her research was heavily focused on vegetable production, specifically processing tomatoes for a local salsa product. The emphasis on local products motivated her to move back to Oklahoma and she is so excited to now serve the town that raised her.

